

# HOME FIRE SAFETY

LESSONS FOR  
YEARS 7-10



## Introduction

In some places, natural hazards such as bushfires, cyclones and floods can threaten lives and property. Sometimes they can become natural disasters. But, all of us, no matter where we live, are at risk of home fire. We must remain aware of this risk, take simple precautions and be ready to respond to a fire or other emergency in the home.

## ABOUT THESE LESSONS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Explore some startling facts that highlight the importance of home fire safety.

### REMEMBER THESE?

Students revisit and practise some very important home fire safety concepts that they should be familiar with from primary school. These simple concepts such as Stop, Drop and Roll and Crawl Low in Smoke, are enduring importance.

### YOUR HOTSPOTS: HOME FIRE HAZARDS

Students identify home 'hotspots' – fire hazards known to cause many preventable fires within the home – and complete a home hotspot audit. They also find out more about their school emergency procedures.

### ESCAPE!

The information in this section draws students attention to how vital it is to prepare and practise a home fire escape plan.

### HELPING OTHERS

Students are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge to help individuals in their community known to be more vulnerable to home fires.

## WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Student information and activities
- *Your home fire escape plan sheet* (also available [here](#))
- *Home fire safety checklist sheet* (also available [here](#))

To request hard copies of *Home Fire Safety* or other useful CFA publications, please contact [education@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:education@cfa.vic.gov.au) or download the pdf [here](#).



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## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This content has been mapped to the Victorian Curriculum. The Victorian Curriculum F-10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	<p><b>Levels 7 and 8</b></p> <p>Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing</p> <p><b>Levels 9 and 10</b></p> <p>Plan, implement and critique strategies to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of their communities</p>
<b>English</b>	<p><b>Level 7</b></p> <p>Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, selecting aspects of subject matter and particular language, visual, and audio features to convey information and ideas to a specific audience</p> <p><b>Level 8</b></p> <p>Create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that raise issues, report events and advance opinions, using deliberate language and textual choices, and including digital elements as appropriate</p> <p><b>Level 9</b></p> <p>Create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that present a point of view and advance or illustrate arguments, including texts that integrate visual, print and/or audio features</p>

Sourced from [victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au) August 2017.



# HOME FIRE EMERGENCY

## DID YOU KNOW?

- On average, there are 3,000 house fires in Victoria. Most could be prevented by taking simple precautions.
- In 2012, there were 3,800 house fires in Victoria. Forty two percent of those fires started in the kitchen.
- When you are asleep you can't smell smoke.
- You are 60% less likely to survive a house fire without a working smoke alarm.
- By law, every home must have at least one working smoke alarm – but the safest option is to install an alarm in every room where someone sleeps.



## QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Find out more by visiting [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire)
- In pairs or groups, research and write a set of quiz questions on home fire safety. Run a quick quiz competition
- Write a news story about a building fire event. Describe how the fire started and how the occupants survived
- Design a social media campaign to make young people aware of home fire safety

## REMEMBER THESE?

- Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go! or Crawl Low in Smoke
- Stop, Drop and Roll
- Dial Triple Zero 000
- Only working smoke alarms save lives
- You must have a home fire escape plan with two exits from every room

Guess what? These are important safety messages for everyone, not just children.

Find out more by visiting [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire)



### WHEN YOU CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

- Do you want Police, Fire or Ambulance?
- Stay calm, don't shout, speak slowly and clearly
- Tell us exactly where to come. Give an address or location
- Don't hang up, leave the phone off the hook

# > Triple Zero process (000)

Always call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency.

You will be asked by Telstra which service you require "Police, Fire or Ambulance?"



Your call will then be connected to an ESTA communications centre.

*You will be asked:*

***"Where is your emergency?"***

The calltaker verifies the address by asking where the nearest cross street is, or asks for a prominent landmark.

*You will then be asked:*

***"What is your emergency?"***

The calltaker will ask more questions to gather as much information as possible.



**Once the calltaker knows where and what the emergency is, a dispatcher will send the emergency services required.**

This happens while the calltaker continues to ask you questions.



The emergency services arrive on scene.



## QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 01** What do these messages mean and why are they so important? Use your knowledge or conduct further research to find out more about these messages. When you're finished, share and discuss your findings with your class or partner.

MESSAGE	WHY
Only working smoke alarms save lives	
The air close to the floor is cleaner and cooler	
You must have a home fire escape plan, with two exits from every room, and practise it	
Stop, Drop (cover your face) and Roll	
Dial Triple Zero (000) in an emergency	
When you change your clock for daylight savings, change your smoke alarm battery	
Lightly dust or vacuum the smoke alarm cover each month	
Test your smoke alarm by pressing the 'test' button at least once a month	
When you're asleep you cannot smell smoke	
Feel closed doors with the back of your hand before opening them	
Get out as quickly as possible and stay out	
Close doors behind you if you can	

- 02** Can you still remember how to Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go! or Crawl Low in Smoke? What about Stop, Drop and Roll? When was the last time you practised? Maybe it's time. These actions could save your life.
- 03** It's important to know how to treat minor burns and scalds. Visit the Victorian Burns Unit website [vicburns.org.au](http://vicburns.org.au) to find out more about burns prevention and treatment. Create a first aid information sheet for home. Ask the students to discuss any myths they have heard about the treatment of burns (i.e. applying butter, grease or oil).
- 04** Create a social media home fire safety campaign targeted at your age group. Use a range of images and text to promote your messages.

# YOUR HOTSPOTS

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## HOME FIRE HAZARDS

- 01** Use the sheet to conduct a home fire safety audit. How many hotspots did you recognise as a potential hazard in your home?
- 02** Complete this quick quiz:
- A** Never leave cooking unattended. **True** or **False**
  - B** You should leave tea towels on or close to the stove? **True** or **False**
  - C** All heaters should be turned off before going to bed or leaving the house. **True** or **False**
  - D** Clothing, curtains and toys should be kept at least how many metres away from heaters or open fires?
  - E** It is safe to overload powerboards? **True** or **False**
  - F** How often should you replace the battery in your smoke alarms?
  - G** How often should you test your smoke alarm?
  - H** How many smoke alarms should you have in your house?
  - I** Only \_\_\_\_\_ smoke alarms save lives.
  - J** Never leave electric blankets on for longer than \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.
- 03** Design a set of hotspot reminder signs to post around your home. Check back after one week. Did your hotspot campaign work?

# YOUR HOTSPOTS

## HOME FIRE HAZARDS

### ANSWER SHEET

02 Complete this quick quiz:

- A** Never leave cooking unattended. **True** or **False**
- B** You should leave tea towels on or close to the stove? **True** or **False**
- C** All heaters should be turned off before going to bed or leaving the house. **True** or **False**
- D** Clothing, curtains and toys should be kept at least how many metres away from heaters or open fires?  
*One metre*
- E** It is safe to overload powerboards. **True** or **False**
- F** How often should you replace the battery in your smoke alarms?  
*Yearly*
- G** How often should you test your smoke alarm?  
*Monthly*
- H** How many smoke alarms should you have in your house?  
*At least one on each level*
- I** Only *working* smoke alarms save lives.
- J** Never leave electric blankets on for longer than *30* minutes.

# ESCAPE!

## PREPARE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- 01** If you have access to the internet, visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/escape-plans](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/escape-plans) and read more about escape plans.
- 02** Use the *Your home fire escape plan* sheet to complete a **Home Fire Escape Plan**.
- 03** When you've completed your plan, practise your escape. Were you able to exit each room safely and quickly?  
*Tip: If it's safe, wear 'foggy goggles' and dim the light to simulate a smoke-filled room.*

## SCHOOL EMERGENCY

- 04** Think about your school building and classroom. What would you do if the fire alarm sounded? Would you take it seriously? Discuss.
- 05** Find out about your school's fire and emergency procedures. Does your school have these things? List where they are found.
- A** Emergency exit signs  \_\_\_\_\_
- B** Internal fire sprinklers  \_\_\_\_\_
- C** Smoke detectors  \_\_\_\_\_
- D** Fire extinguishers  \_\_\_\_\_
- E** Emergency exit maps in each room  \_\_\_\_\_
- Other items...
- F** \_\_\_\_\_ **G** \_\_\_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_\_\_ **I** \_\_\_\_\_
- 06** How often does your school conduct an emergency evacuation drill? Where is your meeting location?
- 07** Try and improve your schools emergency plan. Let students design one and practice it to see if it works.



# HELPING OTHERS

Does someone you know need your help? Think about older relatives, neighbours, friends or young adult relatives who have recently moved out of home.

## Of people who died in a house fire over the last 10 years<sup>1</sup>:

- More than half did not have a working smoke alarm
- Two-thirds were over 65 or had a disability
- Nearly two-thirds lived alone

## SMOKE ALARM SAVES FAMILY FROM FIRE

### June 03, 2015

A working smoke alarm has saved an elderly woman from her burning home in Mount Eliza overnight.

CFA was called to the Meribil Close home around 4am and found the house fully alight. CFA District 8 Operations Officer Sean Kerr said the woman was alerted to the fire by her smoke alarm.

“This house fire highlights the importance of installing and maintaining smoke alarms – they save lives,” he said.

“Unfortunately this house was completely destroyed by fire so this had the potential for a devastating outcome had the woman not woken to her smoke alarms.”

The woman received minor burns and suffered smoke inhalation. She was transported to hospital by paramedics. The cause will be investigated today but it’s not believed to be suspicious. Five CFA trucks and around 20 firefighters from Mt Eliza and Frankston attended the scene.



Source: CFA

## ACTIVITIES

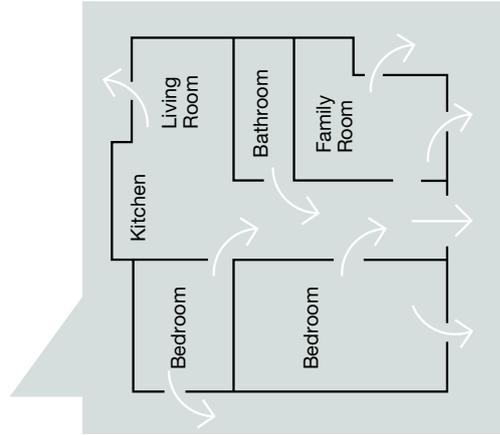
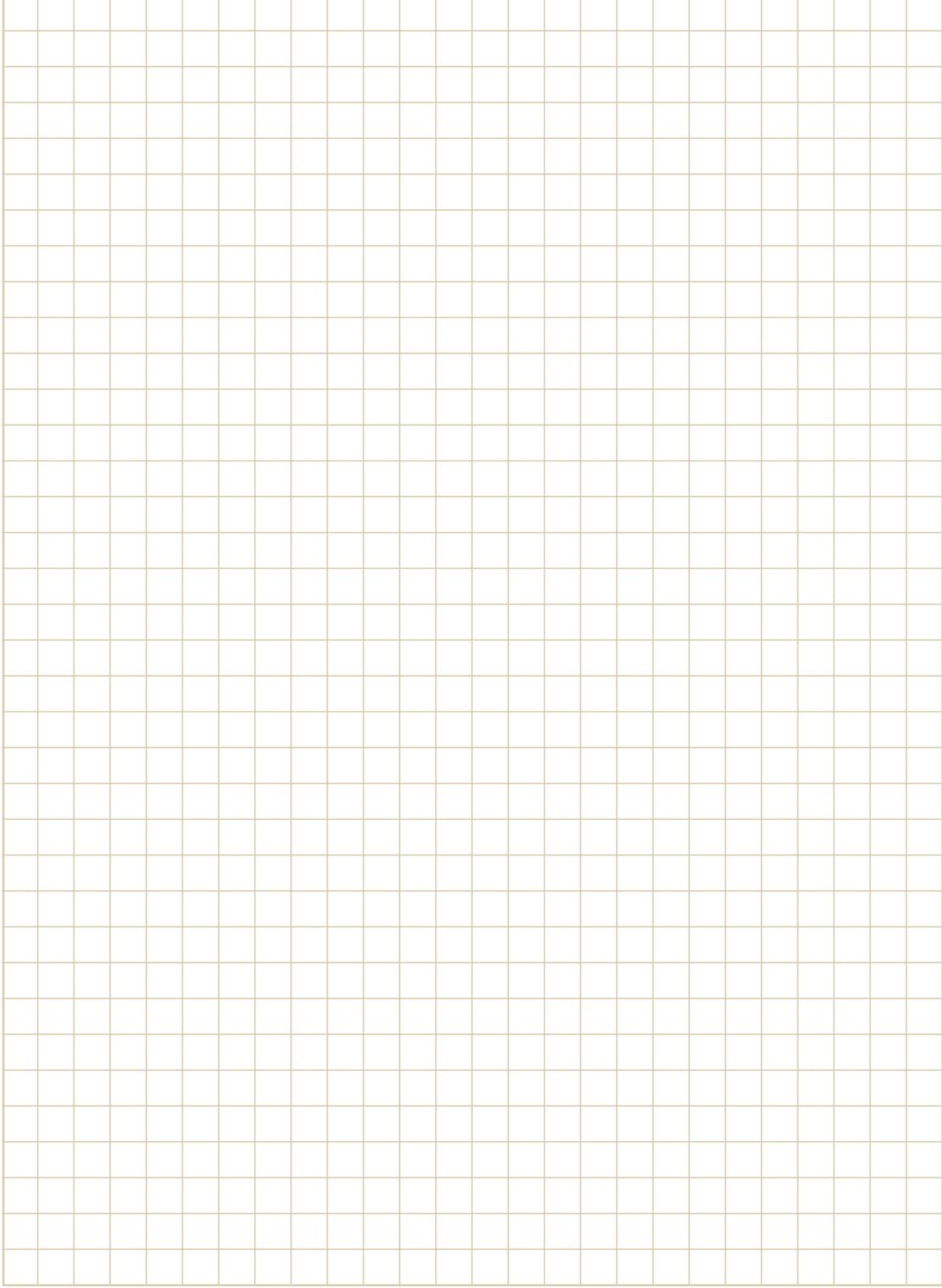
- 01 Write a set of instructions on home fire safety for a young adult moving out of home for the first time. You only have a single-sided A4 sheet. Include diagrams, photos or illustrations, and the most important information.
- 02 Repeat the same activity for an elderly person. Remember to tailor your instructions for each age group.
- 03 Assist someone in need – check their smoke alarm, prepare a home fire escape plan and complete a home fire safety checklist.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/>

# YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



- > Draw your home floor plan in the grid and mark all the exits.
- > Identify two ways out of every room.
- > Decide on an outside meeting place, such as the letterbox.
- > Practise your home fire escape plan regularly with the whole family.
- > Keep this plan handy to remind everyone of the safe exits in case of fire.



# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

## Smoke alarms

- Test and clean regularly
- At least one on each level
- One in every bedroom where someone sleeps with the door closed

## Heaters

- Install, maintain and operate according to manufacturer's instructions
- Keep 1 metre clear space around
- Turn off before going to bed or going out

## Chimneys and flues

- Clean yearly

## Bedroom

- Never smoke in bed
- Don't leave laptops on bed

## Electric blankets

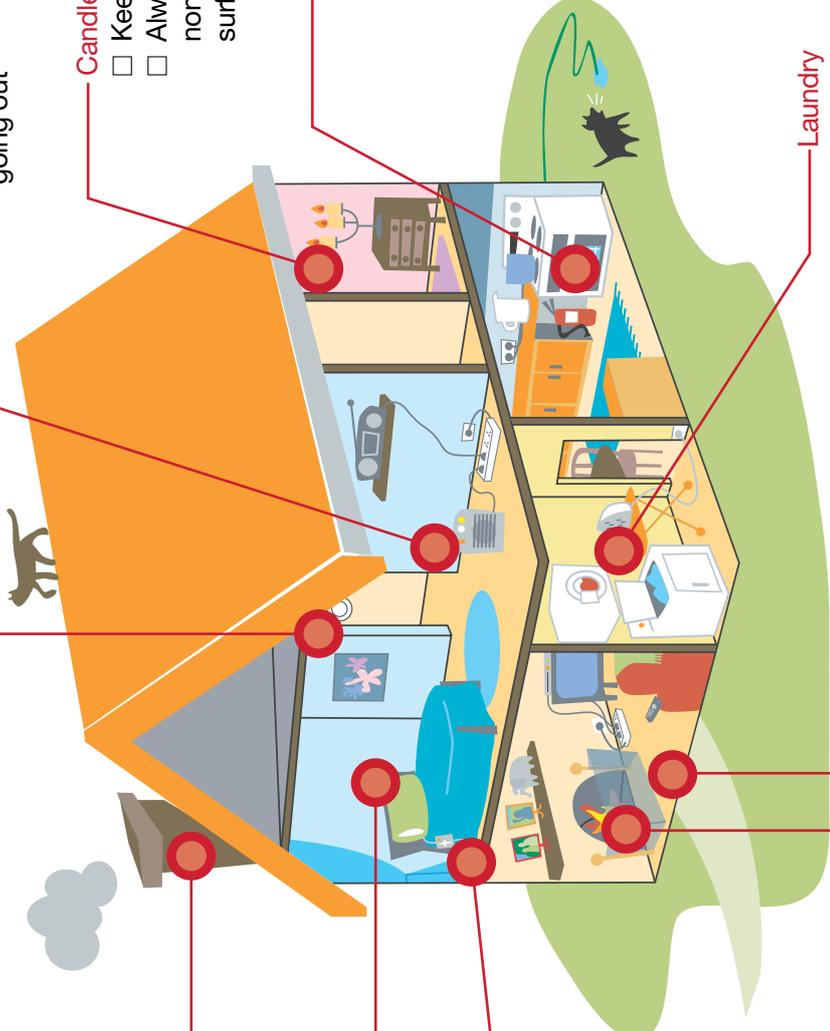
- Turn on no more than 30 minutes before bed
- Turn off before you get into bed
- Remove heavy items from bed when on
- Keep flat with controls at the side of the bed
- Regularly check for broken and worn wiring

## Open fire place

- Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire
- Put out fires before going to bed or going out
- Keep 1 metre clear space around

## Front door

- Never deadlock doors when you're at home. If you must keep doors deadlocked, leave your keys in the lock
- Develop and practise your home fire escape plan – have two ways to escape each room and a designated safe meeting point outside your home, e.g. letterbox



## Candles

- Keep away from curtains
- Always use on non-combustible surfaces

## Kitchen

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep combustibles such as tea towels and curtains away from cooking and heat sources
- Keep pot handles turned in
- Keep grills, fans and cooking surfaces free of grease residue

## Laundry

- Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each load
- Let the dryer complete its cooldown cycle before stopping

## Remember...

- > If your smoke alarms have removable batteries replace them every year.
- > Supervise children near heating equipment.
- > Turn off electrical appliances at the power point when not in use.
- > Keep electrical appliances and equipment in good working order.
- > Replace damaged equipment e.g. power cords.
- > Don't overload power boards.
- > Have and know how to use your fire blanket and extinguisher.

